

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the manufacture of sodium carbonate monohydrate crystals comprising:

a) the addition of sodium carbonate to an aqueous solution comprising sodium bicarbonate and sodium carbonate in an amount sufficient to exceed the solubility of sodium sesquicarbonate and, in order to form an aqueous suspension comprising crystals of sodium sesquicarbonate;

b) ~~the crystallization and~~ the separation of sodium sesquicarbonate crystals from the aqueous suspension, in order to obtain sesquicarbonate crystals, on the one hand, and an aqueous mother liquor, on the other hand; and

c) the crystallization and the separation of sodium carbonate monohydrate crystals from the aqueous mother liquor;

~~wherein the amount of sodium carbonate added in a) is adjusted so that sodium sesquicarbonate solubility is exceeded, and so that the crystallization of sesquicarbonate crystals in b) can be carried out without preliminary evaporation of the aqueous suspension.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the sodium carbonate added to the aqueous solution is solid sodium carbonate originating from the calcination of trona.

3. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution comprises an aqueous extraction liquor pumped out of a trona deposit.

4. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of sodium carbonate added to the aqueous solution is such that its content of sodium carbonate is between 31 and 37% by weight.

5. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 4, wherein the amount of sodium carbonate added to the aqueous solution is such that its content of sodium carbonate is between 33 and 36% by weight.

6. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the sodium sesquicarbonate separated in b) is subsequently calcined.

7. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, further comprising adding sodium carbonate to the aqueous mother liquor resulting from b).

8. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, further comprising extracting impurities from the aqueous mother liquor between b) and c), before the crystallization of the sodium carbonate monohydrate.

9. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the separation of sodium carbonate crystals from the mother liquor in c) provides said crystals and an aqueous liquor, and wherein a portion of the aqueous liquor is added to the aqueous solution during a).

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The process according to Claim 1,~~ A process for the manufacture of sodium carbonate monohydrate crystals comprising:

a) the addition of sodium carbonate to an aqueous solution comprising sodium bicarbonate and sodium carbonate, in order to form an aqueous suspension;

b) the crystallization and the separation of sodium sesquicarbonate crystals from the aqueous suspension, in order to obtain sesquicarbonate crystals, on the one hand, and an aqueous mother liquor, on the other hand;

c) the crystallization and the separation of sodium carbonate monohydrate crystals from the aqueous mother liquor,

wherein the amount of sodium carbonate added in a) is adjusted so that sodium sesquicarbonate solubility is exceeded, and so that the crystallization of sesquicarbonate crystals in b) can be carried out without preliminary evaporation of the aqueous suspension, and

wherein the crystallization of sesquicarbonate crystals in b) is carried out without preliminary evaporation of the aqueous suspension.

11. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 10, wherein the sodium carbonate added to the aqueous solution is solid sodium carbonate originating from the calcination of trona.

12. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 10, wherein the aqueous solution comprises an aqueous extraction liquor pumped out of a trona deposit.

13. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 10, wherein the amount of sodium carbonate added to the aqueous solution is such that its content of sodium carbonate is between 31 and 37% by weight.

14. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 13, wherein the amount of sodium carbonate added to the aqueous solution is such that its content of sodium carbonate is between 33 and 36% by weight.

15. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 10, wherein the sodium sesquicarbonate separated in b) is subsequently calcined.

16. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 10, further comprising adding sodium carbonate to the aqueous mother liquor resulting from b).

17. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 10, further comprising extracting impurities from the aqueous mother liquor between b) and c), before the crystallization of the sodium carbonate monohydrate.

18. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 10, wherein the separation of sodium carbonate crystals from the mother liquor in c) provides said crystals and an aqueous liquor, and wherein a portion of the aqueous liquor resulting from c) is added to the aqueous solution during a).

19. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 1, wherein the formation of the aqueous suspension comprising crystals of sodium sesquicarbonate comprises crystallization of sodium sesquicarbonate crystals from the aqueous suspension is accomplished by maturation at a temperature of 30-32 °C.

20. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 10, wherein the crystallization of sodium sesquicarbonate crystals from the aqueous suspension is accomplished by maturation at a temperature of 30-32 °C.